has stopped direct sailing to East Coast Ports of USA from Calcutta;

(b) if so, what are the details and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also fact that total shipments on the route show an upward trend by about 10 per cent over the last year;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to revive the position; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The Shipping Corporation of India has not stopped direct sailings from Calcutta to East Coast Ports of USA.

(c) No, Sir. In fact that total shipments from Calcutta/Haldia to East Coast of USA in 1992 were 1,04,868 tonnes as compared to 1,05,104 tonnes in 1991, showing a marginal decline of 0.22 per cent.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Improving the Financial Conditons of Hindustan Shipyard Limited

357. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Shipyard Limited has been in the "Red" for a long time;

(b) whether several representations have been made to Government for improving the viability of the Shipyard; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to brighten the prospects of this public sector undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some representations were received for improving the viability of the Shipyard.

(c) The following steps have been taken to revive the HSL:—

(i) Permission to sell the 3 bulk carriers under construction in HSL for Shipping Corporation of India by open tender.

(ii) Reduction in man-power by extending financial asistance for implementing the Voluntray Retirement Scheme.

The following further steps are under consideration:—

(i) Capital re-structuring of HSL involving conversion of project development loans into equity, waiver of interest/penal interest etc.

(ii) A package of reliefs for shipbuilding industry including revision of the pricing formula and also extension of Yard credit on soft terms to the Shipping Compaies placing orders on the Indian Yards.

Buses Under S.T.A. and DTC in Delhi

358. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of public transport bus (DTC private buses under STA and DTC operation) in the Capital today;

(b) whether the Delhi Administration is planning to flood the Capitals roads with a large contingent of buses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) 6937 buses.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.